

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 18636 231118Z
ACTION EA-12

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SUBJECT: THAI MEDIA REACTION-- NARCOTICS

EDITORIAL AUGUST 22 IN THAI RATH, THAILAND'S LARGEST-CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER, NOTED DEA OFFICIAL DANIEL ADDARIO'S REMARKS TO THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THAILAND AUGUST 17 ABOUT HUGE NARCOTICS STOCKPILES IN BURMA ALONG THE THAI BORDER CAUSED BY VIGOROUS THAI NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION. EDIT SAID THAT NARCOTICS ARE THE "MAIN BLOOD VESSEL" OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND THAT THEY ARE ONLY SUSPENDING THEIR ACTIVITIES, NOT HALTING THEM PERMANENTLY. EDIT URGED FORMATION OF A JOINT THAI-BURMESE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION UNIT AND WARNED OF NARCOTICS ENTERING THAILAND FROM LAOS. EXTRACT FOLLOWS.

(BEGIN EXTRACT)

SINCE THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT OPIUM AND HEROIN ARE STOCKPILED IN BURMA NEAR THAILAND, PREVENTION OR INTERDICTION OF SMUGGLING INTO THAI TERRITORY MAY NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT TO CARRY OUT. FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL IS URGENT CONTACT WITH THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT SUPPRESSION UNIT TO WIPE OUT
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 18636 231118Z

THE STOCKPILE BEFORE IT CAN BE MOVED OUT INTO THAILAND OR OTHER MARKETS.

MEANWHILE, A SAD REPORT HAS ARRIVED, WHICH STATED THAT RED LAO TROOPS HAVE A HUGE STOCKPILE OF HEROIN IN LAOS OPPOSITE NONG-KHAI PROVINCE. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THEY WILL SELL IT TO GET MONEY TO SPEND IN SUBVERTING ANY COUNTRY, BUT CERTAINLY IT WOULD

BE A DANGER FOR THAILAND IF PART OF THIS STOCKPILE ENTERS THAILAND.
WE HOPE THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS PREPARED BOTH PREVENTIVE AND
SUPPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST THIS HAPPENING. THE ENTIRE NARCOTICS
SCENE MAKES US CERTAIN THAT THAILAND'S WAR AGAINST NARCOTICS WILL
LAST A LONG TIME, ALTHOUGH SOME SUCCESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, ALREADY.

(END EXTRACT)
MCGINLEY

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